A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, August 24. 1708.

Review. MY mad Man seem'd to quarrel with our new Act of Parliament last *Review*, but I hope, he shall satisfie you, that he is not for discouraging Privateers.

Mad Man. Now you are making Excuses for me, mad Men can always make their Party good with the World; for my Part I desire no Peace with them; I say, I do not like that Law in the least; had the House been all Bedlamites, they would never have made such a Law; our Taking the Bullion from the *Spaniard* is a Loss to them, that is confess'd, but this Act of giving the Money to a Parcel of TARRS, a meer *Crew*, a few Fellows, that if they were not of my Class before, will certainly be so now, *at least till the Money is spent*; and this at a Time when the Nation is in such Exigence for Money; I say, there is no Policy in it, nor indeed any Manner of Comparison between the Service and the Reward——— Two Millions of Money to 4 or 600 Sailers —Does this look like a Nation in their Wits?

Rev. Hush *Lunatick!* You will bring all the Town upon your Back, all the Railers at the Admiralty will be upon you, all the Fitters out of Privateers will bait you, and if you go into *Wapping*, the Seamens Wives will stone you—— They tell you, this is the only Way to make Men fight; now the Men of War will look out, the Seamen will fight *like mad, like mad*, and it will be the Life of the War—when all they catch is their own——And before they did nothing.

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M. An admirable Satyr upon the People! Is not this libelling *England*? Your lame, hobling *True-Born-Engliſhman*—*As a learned Scribler that is mighty able to mend it, lately call'd it*, is a Fool to this. *Horrid Scandal!* I am ſure the Wives of *Wapping* ought to ſtone the Authors of ſuch a notorious Scandal—What, do nothing? The Seamen not fight, but when they are to get the Money?—What, nothing for their Country? *Engliſh* Seamen not fight for their Country, but for the Money? Nothing for the QUEEN? Not fight for their QUEEN? Nothing make them fight but getting the Money themſelves, and all the Money too? Mercenary *Engliſh* Men. The very Act is a Satyr upon the Nation, *taken in this Senſe*, but much more upon the Seamen! Mercenary D—s! What nothing make them fight but the Money—Nothing but ALL the Money, and ALL to themſelves? 'Tis certainly an unreaſonable Booty, and ſuch extraordinary Things ought to have been excepted, the Seamen and Officers ſhould have been nobly rewarded—But to give ALL to them, the Circumſtances make it intollerable—The Gift is *too great* for the Nation to give, or the People to take; the Kingdom cannot ſpare it, the Perſons that are to have it, do not know how to uſe it or improve it;——If a mad Man has an Eſtate, you take it away from him; to give ſuch a Quantity of Money among Seamen, is mad in it ſelf, and will only make them mad in the Uſe; and therefore you ſhould let Things be done in Proportion, this is out of all Rule, nor did ever any Nation in the World do the like.

Rev. I do confeſs, the Quantity of Money is in Part loſt to the Nation, thoſe poor, hardned, ſenceleſs Creatures ſeldom bringing any home with them, nor will they be capable of making themſelves the richer with it there; and to this the Act wants only an Order, that all Bullion in *Specie* ſhould be brought to *England*, and that then the People that had the Claim ſhould enjoy it.

M. I tell yon, they cannot enjoy it, you will ſend them all to my Chamber if they get it, *too much Money will make them mad*, they cannot enjoy it, and they'll be as mad with it in *Wapping*, as at *Jamaica*.

Rev. I cannot help their Madneſs, they won't be all ſo; there's a great many honeſt ſober Fellows among them, and that will ſend it home to their Wives, and make their Families rich with it; and this will encourage the Seamen, and encourage the Merchants of our Plantations to fit out Privateers——I tell you, this very Act of Parliament and this very Example will make ſuch Fleets of Privateers be fitted out by all our Plantations there, that the *Spaniards* will be ruin'd, if they hold out the War, they will not be able to peep out of their Ports, nor carry their Goods from Place to Place; and when they can find no more Veſſels at Sea, they will joyn into Fleets, and inſult their Coaſts; it is the only Way could have been taken with the *French*, and if it had been done four Years ago, they had never made ſuch Havock of our Trade as they have done.

M. I like it every where, but in this Caſe of ſuch a Fraight of Silver, for it renders the Advantage leſs than it would have been; if the Enemy had got ſuch a Booty from us, it had not been our Loſs only, but it had been a Supply to their publick Occaſions, and ſerv'd them againſt us—But that Half of the Advantage is loſt— And had you but got the Bullion for the publick Uſe, tho' you had given the Whole to the Seamen in Annual Payments of Intereſt, or in Quarterly Payments, it had been better for them; the Nation had gain'd the Bullion to circulate in Trade, and the Government had obtain'd a needful Supply for the next Years War; could have fought the *French* with their own Weapons, and been able to have given a little Breath to our own Country, on whom the Burthen, *however chearfully we bear it*, lies heavy enough.

Rev. I confeſs, there might, if the Caſe had been conſider'd, have been ſome Ways and Means found out to have given us ſome Eaſe, and yet to have let the Sailors have had the full Recompence of their Labour and Hazard.

M. I doubt not, but the Parliament would have had ſome Conſideration of a Caſe like this; for as it is, it is throwing away a vaſt Advantage, when Heaven has put it into our Hands, which no Nation in the whole World but Ours would do, and

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leaving it all to be consum'd by the Luxury and abominable Madness of the Seamen—Were all this Bullion brought home to *England*, coyn'd at the *Tower*, apply'd to the necessary Uses of the War, and the full Interest of it settled by Act of Parliament upon the Officers and Seamen that took it, according to their just Proportions—Would it not be a thousand Times of more Advantage to the Government, and to the Men themselves? — A few of them that would be mad in spight of all the Care the Government could take of them, would sell them, and burn the Writings, *as the Sailors once lighted their Pipes with Exchequer-Bills*; but the Generality of the Men will leave them with their Wives for Subsistence while they are abroad, and thus the whole Nation would be better'd by the Booty, and going to the *West-Indies* would be courted by our Seamen, as much as it has been shun'd heretofore——If this be not good Advice, and a wholesom Project, tho' it comes out of *Bedlam*, let all *Exchange-Alley* make a better if they can.

MISCELLANEA.

THE Remaining Part of the Representation of the Episcopal Ministers, *&c.* of *Scotland*, should have been inserted in our last, but that we had not Room. In this we have therefore given the Reader another Part of it; which is as follows.

" WE proceed with all Submission " to call in question, and impugn " the Relevancy of the Libel, which tho' " inforced with the present Circumstances " of the Country as threatned with an " Invasion; Yet it's contended, that the " Qualifications and Acts subsumed upon " are no ways relevant for inferring the " Conclusion libell'd.

" As to which, the *1st.* in Order is the " *16th* Act of the Meeting of the Estates, " ordaining all Ministers within this King- " dom to pray for King *William* and Queen " *Mary*, as King and Queen of this Realm, " of which Act we are libell'd as Contra- " veners, because we do not, as is alledg'd, " pray for her Majesty Queen *ANNE*. " It's answer'd, (1.) That the Persons for " whom publick Prayers are order'd to be " made by the said Act are dead, and the " Act must die with them in consequence. " (2.) It's invidious for our Pursuer to bring " our Prayers into the Accusation, seeing " he cannot alledge against us any Words " or Expressions, that bewray Contempt " of Authority or Disrespect to their Per- " sons. We pray for the whole Royal " Family. We are none of those who de- " spise Dominions, or speak Evil of Digni- " ties, and therefore cannot conceive up- " on what Ground this Part of the Accu- " sation is founded against us, especially " seeing there is no Form of Prayer in Re- " lation to this Particular impos'd by any " Law, and where there is no Law, there " can be no Transgression.

" As to the Act of Parliament 1693, " ordaining all Ministers and Preachers of " the Gospel to take the Allegiance, and " subscribe the Assurance. It's answer'd, " (1.) That it would appear to mean such " only as are settled in Charges, and en- " joy Benefices, and we are the more war- " ranted to say so by the Act of Recogni- " tion, that enjoyns the taking of them to " Queen *ANNE*, obliges only them that " are in publick Trust, Civil, Ecclesiastick " or Military, which reaches not the Case " of the Defenders, who cannot be sup- " pos'd to have any Trust, when they have " not so much as a Legal Toleration; and " whatever were the Sence of the Act 1693, " it is out of Doors, being limitted to the " Persons of K. *William* and Q. *Mary*; And " even of those that are in Trust by Pos- " session of Benefices, it's known, there " are several that have never qualified " themselves in the Terms of the Law, the " Government being so far indulgent as to " supersede the Execution of a Law in some " Cases, rather than to impose upon weak

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